IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a repository for storing a volume license agreement for [a] an electronic product, wherein the volume licensing agreement is obtained from a clearinghouse in response to a request from a user to purchase the electronic product;

a repository for maintaining a purchase history for the electronic product;

a rules engine containing a set of rules for determining a discount step for the electronic product in accordance with under the volume licensing agreement;

a pricing generator, remotely connected with the clearinghouse over a communications network, to determine a new discount step for the electronic product based, at least in part, on the purchase history, determine whether a current discount step is the same as the new discount step, and replace, if the current discount step is not the same as the new discount step, the current discount step with the new discount step, calculate a purchase price for the electronic product in accordance with based, at least in part, on the discount step and the purchase history, determine whether the discount step is current and, if the discount step is not current, determine a new discount step for the electronic product based, at least in part, on the purchase history and update the purchase price; and

a purchase generator to generate a purchase price for the electronic product based, at least in part, on the new discount step and the purchase history, update the volume licensing agreement to reflect the new discount step and the generated purchase price, and display the generated purchase price and, transact a purchase of the electronic product in response to a user request to approve the purchase, and update the purchase history to reflect the purchase.

2.   (Canceled)

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3.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communications network is the Internet.

4.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the clearinghouse is further remotely connected to at least one of a plurality of publishers, the publishers periodically transmitting a new volume licensing agreement to the clearinghouse.

5.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the clearinghouse is further remotely connected to at least one of a plurality of distributors, the distributors periodically transmitting a new volume licensing agreement to the clearinghouse.

6.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the purchase history is updated to reflect the transacted purchase.

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rules engine further contains a set of rules for determining the discount step for the product in accordance with a profile of the user that requested the purchase.

9.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
        an electronic distribution mechanism to automatically install the purchased product in response to a user request.

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing:

obtaining a volume licensing agreement for [a] an electronic product from a clearinghouse over a communications network in response to a request from a user to purchase the electronic product;

storing the volume license agreement in a repository;

recording a history of purchases of the electronic product ~~pursuant to~~ under the volume license agreement;

determining a new discount step for the electronic product ~~in accordance with the volume licensing agreement,~~ based, at least in part, on the purchase history;

determining whether a current discount step is the same as the new discount step;

replacing, if the current discount step is different from the new discount step, the current discount step with the new discount step;

~~calculating~~ generating a purchase price for ~~a purchase of~~ the electronic product ~~in accordance with the~~ based, at least in part, on the new discount step and the history of purchases;

~~determining whether the discount step is current;~~

~~determining a new discount step and updating the price, if the discount step is not current;~~ ~~and~~

transacting the purchase of the electronic product for the generated purchase price in response to a purchaser request to approve the generated purchase price;

updating the history of purchases to reflect the purchase; and

updating the volume licensing agreement to reflect the new discount step and the generated purchase price.

11.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 having computer-executable

instructions for further performing:

      communicating the purchase price to the user in a visual display, and communicating the

approval by the user to purchase in a response to the visual display.

12.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 having computer-executable

instructions for further performing:

      communicating the purchase price to the user in an electronic message, and communicating

the approval by the user to purchase in a reply to the electronic message.

13.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the volume license

agreement storing computer-executable instructions further include instructions to extract the

volume license agreement from a remote clearinghouse.

14.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the volume license

agreement storing instructions further include extracting updated information about the products

license under the volume licensing agreement

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the discount

step determining instructions further contain instructions for determining the discount step for the

product in accordance with a user profile of the user approving the purchase price.

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

obtaining a volume licensing agreement for [a] an electronic product from a clearinghouse over a communications network in response to a request from a user to purchase the electronic product;

storing the volume license agreement in a repository;

recording a history of purchases of the electronic product ~~pursuant to~~ under the volume license agreement;

determining a new discount step for the electronic product ~~in accordance with the volume licensing agreement,~~ based, at least in part, on the purchase history;

determining whether a current discount step is the same as the new discount step;

replacing, if the current discount step is different from the new discount step, the current discount step with the new discount step;

~~calculating~~ generating a purchase price for ~~a purchase of~~ the electronic product ~~in accordance with the~~ based, at least in part, on the new discount step and the history of purchases;

~~determining whether the discount step is current;~~

~~determining a new discount step and updating the price, if the discount step is not current;~~

~~and~~

transacting the purchase of the electronic product for the generated purchase price in response to a purchaser request to approve the generated purchase price;

updating the history of purchases to reflect the purchase; and

updating the volume licensing agreement to reflect the new discount step and the generated purchase price.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

    .   displaying the generated price to the purchaser for approval before transacting the

purchase.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein recording a history of purchases includes

recording a point value associated with the purchase in accordance with the volume license

    . agreement.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein recording a history of purchases includes

recording the date associated with the purchase.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein recording a history of purchases includes

recording a profile of the purchaser that requested the purchase.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the purchase price is generated in response to

a purchaser request.

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 17 wherein the clearinghouse is maintained

on a web server computer accessible over the Internet.